

Crabtree, Andrew

From: bgoldmace@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 3:05 PM
To: Crabtree, Andrew
Subject: Public comment - General Plan Task Force

Hi Andrew

At the January 11th General Plan Task Force meeting, there was extensive discussion among the task force members regarding the proposed scope and intent of the General Plan document. The basic issue was whether the General Plan should be a narrow document that is focused specifically on land use, or whether the document should have a more expansive scope and deal with broader economic ideas and vision.

In order to clarify this issue, I suggested during my public comments that Staff should provide the task force members with a clear definition concerning the criteria that will determine what items will be included in the final document. Such criteria might include the following: items included in the General Plan need to be measurable and quantifiable, but at the same time they can also be aspirational, visionary and strategic if they fit the overall goal of providing a comprehensive vision for dealing with land-use issues and economic development in San Jose. As part of this discussion, Staff needs to provide the task force members with a clear understanding of how broader economic development issues will fit into the General Plan framework. Thus far, I have not yet seen a formal definition from Staff regarding these criteria. In the absence of specific details regarding criteria for inclusion in the General Plan document, the task force members will have a hard time reaching consensus on this issue. Therefore, my recommendation is that Staff prepares a list of formal criteria that will guide all future task force discussions regarding whether to include broader economic development issues in the draft General Plan.

Additionally, there did seem to be a wide consensus among task force members that it is acceptable and preferable to have some aspirational goals concerning economic development included in the draft General Plan. Several task force members, led by Brian Darrow, expressed support for the explicit goal of building a prosperous middle class city in San Jose. Unfortunately, none of Brian's recommendations were included in the revised Economic Development section. It would be visionary and inspirational for the City of San Jose to have a commitment to the creation of quality jobs and a commitment to broadly shared prosperity within the General Plan document. Other cities have these goals in their General Plans, and it would be appropriate for our General Plan to have vision statements that reflect these broader economic goals. Therefore, I encourage Staff to review Brian's proposal and incorporate these recommendations into the General Plan document.

Thanks for your time.
Sincerely,
Bonnie Mace

2/8/2010